

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claim in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 110 (Canceled).

111. (New) A method for operating a preparation delivery device comprising a) a container for the preparation having, or being prepared for the arrangement of, an opening, b) a mechanism operable to deliver at least part of the preparation in the container through the opening, c) attachment means for connection of the container to the mechanism, and d) a sensor system arranged to detect at least one predetermined property of the container or its content, the method comprising

transmitting radiation towards a container position or a part thereof to allow the radiation to be affected by the container position,

receiving at least a part of the affected radiation from at least an area part of the container position in a non-imaging way, and

comparing the characteristics of the received radiation with a predetermined characteristic representative for the predetermined property to establish whether or not the predetermined property of the container is present.

112. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation is affected by reflection, transmission, absorption and/or scattering.

113. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein at least part of the container is translucent or transparent at the radiation frequency and at least some radiation is transmitted into the container.

114. (New) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of moving the container in relation to stationary parts of the mechanism.

115. (New) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of performing an initiation step on the container.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, wherein the initiation step comprises a reconstitution step.

117. (New) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of moving the container in relation to the sensor system.

118. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the speed of movement is less than 10 cm/sec.

119. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the speed of movement is less than 1 cm/sec.

120. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the container and sensor system are kept stationary in relation to each other during radiation reception.

121. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation transmitted is in the non-visible range.

122. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation transmitted is in the infrared range.

123. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation received is defocused.

124. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation is transmitted in a divergent beam and the radiation is received from a divergent take up angle.

125. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation is transmitted and received in a broad space angle.

126. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein a broadband radiation with a preferred frequency variation coefficient of at least plus and minus 1 percent of nominal frequency is transmitted and/or received.

127. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein a transmitter and a receiver are arranged facing in substantially the same direction and at least some radiation received is reflected.

128. (New) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of maintaining a transmitter and a receiver at a distance from the container.

129. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein an area covered by a receiver, expressed as the diameter of a circle with corresponding surface, is between 0.5 and 15 mm.

130. (New) The method of claim 111, further comprising the step of providing a marking on the container readable by the sensor system.

131. (New) The method of claim 130, comprising providing the marking with more than two discrete levels.

132. (New) The method of claim 130, comprising providing more than one discrete marking area.

133. (New) The method of claim 132, comprising reading the areas in sequence, statically or dynamically.

134. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein the reading gives a step difference in the response.

135. (New) The method of claim 130, comprising providing a marking with differences in absorption or reflection.

136. (New) The method of claim 111, comprising positioning the sensor system and the container to allow detection of a functional property of the container.

137. (New) The method of claim 136, wherein the functional property is a container contour part, a plunger position, container content or a marking or modification designed to facilitate detection of a functional property.

138. (New) The method of claim 136, comprising reading a marking on the container, statically or dynamically.

139. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein, in the comparing step, the characteristic of the received radiation is a response representative for the total radiation received from said area covered.

140. (New) The method of claim 139, wherein the establishment of property presence is based on a static response from the receiver.

141. (New) The method of claim 139, wherein the establishment of property presence is based on a dynamic change from the receiver.

142. (New) The method of claim 141, wherein the establishment involves recording a dynamic response versus time function from the receiver.

143. (New) The method of claim 142, wherein more than one property presence is established.

144. (New) The method of claim 143, wherein at least one marking property and one functional property are established.

145. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the transmitted radiation is modulated.

146. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation is transmitted and received with stable orientation in relation to stationary parts of the mechanism.

147. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the container is a cartridge comprising a) a generally cylindrical barrel with a general symmetry axis and having a front end and a rear end, b) an opening or a preparation for an opening at its front end, and c) at least one displaceable piston inserted in the barrel between the front end and the rear end.

148. (New) The method of claim 147, wherein the cartridge is of dual or multi chamber type.

149. (New) A method for operating a preparation delivery device comprising a) a container for the preparation having, or being prepared for the arrangement of, an opening, b) a mechanism operable to deliver at least part of the preparation in the container through the opening, c) attachment means for connection of the container to the mechanism, and d) a sensor system arranged to detect at least one predetermined property of the container or its content, the method comprising

transmitting radiation towards a container position or a part thereof to allow the radiation to be affected by the container position,

receiving at least a part of the affected radiation, and comparing the characteristics of the received radiation with a predetermined characteristic representative of a predetermined functional property of the container or its content, to establish if the predetermined functional property of the container or its content is present and thereby verify a status of the container acceptable for use.

150. (New) The method of claim 149, wherein the received radiation is used to reproduce details from the container position in at least two dimensions providing a representation in the form of pixels in the at least two dimensions.

151. (New) The method of claim 150, comprising refracting the received radiation to an image on a cathode ray tube or charge coupled device.

152. (New) The method of claim 150, comprising sweeping the container position point by point to produce an image.

153. (New) The method of claim 149, wherein broadband radiation with a preferred frequency variation coefficient of at least plus and minus 1 percent of nominal frequency is transmitted or received.

154. (New) The method of claim 153, comprising transmitting at least part of the radiation to the content of the container.

155. (New) The method of claim 153, comprising receiving at least part of the radiation as reflected in substantially the opposite direction as transmission.

156. (New) The method of claim 149, wherein the functional property is a container contour or a plunger position.

157. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein at least part of the container is translucent or transparent at the radiation frequency and at least some radiation is transmitted into the container.

158. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising the step of performing an initiation step on the container.

159. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising the step of moving the container in relation to the sensor system.

160. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the broad space angle is above 30 degrees.

161. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the radiation is received in a radiation receiver producing a non-imaging integrated output response representative of all of the received radiation.

162. (New) The method of claim 149, wherein the radiation is received in a radiation receiver producing a non-imaging integrated output response representative of all of the received radiation.